

**James Hahn
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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

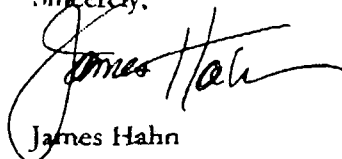
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Last November, Microsoft and the Department of Justice reached a settlement in the antitrust case. The settlement is currently being reviewed, and soon the courts will have to decide whether or not the settlement is acceptable. Microsoft's competitors are touting the agreement as lenient towards Microsoft and harmful to the consumer. They would like nothing better than to see the settlement overturned and litigation against Microsoft continued. I disagree. Continued litigation, not settlement, would do the most damage to the consumer, and the settlement is anything but lenient.

The settlement allows Microsoft to remain intact, but prohibits Microsoft from engaging in behaviors that would prevent other computer makers from having a fair chance to compete. For example, the settlement requires that Microsoft disclose source code from the Windows operating system to its competitors for their use either in working independently or with Microsoft. Microsoft will also furnish third parties acting within the limits of the settlement with a license to applicable intellectual property rights to prevent infringement. I do not think that Microsoft has been treated too mildly in this case; in fact, in the interest of wrapping up the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to a number of terms that extend to aspects of Microsoft not found to be in violation of antitrust laws.

The time has come for a decision to be made, whether or not it is in the best interests of the public to allow a ridiculous amount of time and money to be wasted in laughably redundant litigation, or if the technology industry should be permitted to return to normal and the economy to recover. I would like to see the consumer benefit from a return to normalcy in the economy and the computer industry, and I urge you to support the settlement. Enough is enough!

Sincerely,



James Hahn